

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A neon lighting system for an illuminated vending machine or the like comprising a neon tube having projecting conducting leads from each of its ends; conductive end caps sealingly affixed to said tube ends in contact with said leads and forming plug ends for said tube; power supply conductor wires having boot ends containing receptacles connected to said wires; and said receptacles being adapted to snap on to and off from the tube plug ends formed by the conductive end caps for quick placement and replacement of the neon tube.

2. (Original) A neon lighting system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said power supply boot ends are made of flexible and heat resistant material.

3. (Original) A neon lighting system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said boot ends include integrally formed holding means for supporting the connected neon tube.

4. (Original) A neon lighting system as claimed in claim 3 wherein bracket means are provided in the vending machine and said brackets are adapted to removably receive the holding means on said boot ends.

5. (Original) A neon lighting system is claimed in claim 4 wherein said brackets are spaced apart to receive respective ends of the wire boot connected neon tube.

6. (Currently amended) A method of illuminating a vending machine or the like with neon tubular lamps comprising;

forming a neon tubular lamp having a lamp tube ~~lamps~~ with conductive end caps ~~sealingly affixed to respective ends of the lamp tube to form end plugs~~ ~~plug means sealingly affixed to the ends of the lamp tube, said lamp tube having a projecting conducting lead from each of its ends and each conductive end cap being in contact with a respective projecting conducting lead;~~

providing booted end receptacles for power supply wires adapted to snap onto and off from the end plugs ~~plug means~~ on the neon tubular lamp; and

providing brackets holding means within the machine structure adapted to removably removingly receive the booted neon tubular lamp for retaining it in position for illumination and quick removal for changing and replacement to the neon tubular lamp.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of retaining the booted end receptacles ends of the power supply wires include ~~includes forming~~ retaining means formed thereon on the boots adapted to be removably received by the brackets affixed to the machine.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the brackets are spaced apart and slidingly receive the holding means formed on the boot ends of the power supply wires.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the brackets slidably receive the boot retaining means.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein ~~a the snap-on and off~~ connection between the end plugs and boot receptacles employs a tongue and groove.